

FORM B - BUILDING

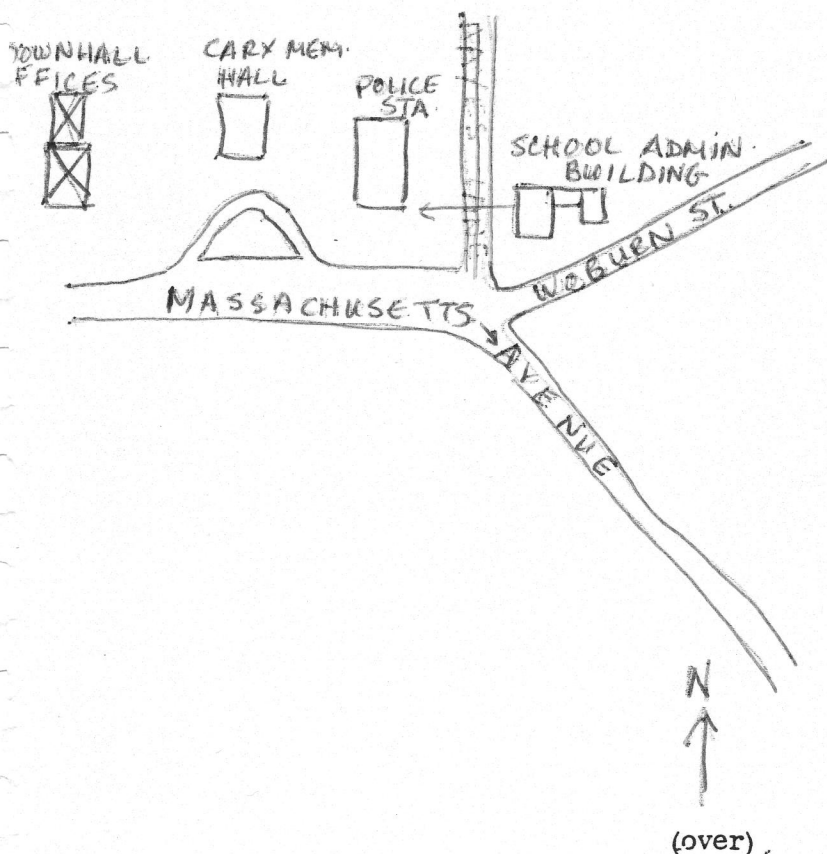
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. <u>A</u>	Form no. <u>631</u>
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Town Lexington
Address 1625 Massachusetts Ave.
Name Town Office Bldg.
Present use " " "
Present owner Town of Lexington
Description:
Date 1927
Source interior marble plaque
Style Colonial Revival

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Willard D. Brown (Kilham, Greeley, & Hopkins)
Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features 2-story bldg. on raised basement. Recessed pavilion. 2 end wings. Entrance in left wing.

Brick pilasters with Doric capitals
cont'd

Altered addition Date 1971
(Perry, Dean & Stewart, archts.)
Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 60'

Approximate distance of building from street
40'

6. Recorded by Harriet White

Organization MAPC

Date 8/1/78

(over)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 631
Property Name: Town Office Bldg.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Other features:

Slate roof with copper ridge and seams..Balconet with wrought iron railing above entrance. Entrance has rectangular sidelights and transom lights. 8/8 double hung sash windows, with flat brick arches as lintels. Two squat brick chimneys on south slope. Sympathetic later addition in rear. In gable of main building, above entrance is white wooden plaque with Town Seal in Gold.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

7. Original owner (if known) Town of Lexington

Original use town offices

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	<u>X</u>	Transportation	_____

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
1625 MASS. AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

A

631

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

At town meeting in January 1927 the town voted to appoint a committee to consider the erection of a town office building to replace the old Town Hall which was built in 1871 and stood at the corner of Main and Waltham Streets. As a result of the vote, the old town hall was sold for \$50,001 and was subsequently demolished in 1928.

The new Town Office Building was erected on land given by the trustees of the Isaac Harris Cary Educational Fund. The home of Harris E. Shaw formerly stood on the site of the present Town Office Building. It was torn down in 1927, prior to the construction of the new building. Cary Memorial Hall was constructed adjacent to the Town Office in 1927-8, on the site of the Plumer House which was also torn down.

The Town Office Building was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley and Brown. James S. Greenwood was the general contractor. The waterstruck brick for the project were purchased from a company in Epping, New Hampshire. When the Town Office building opened for business in June 1928, the Police Department occupied the entire ground floor. After the current police station was built in 1956, the assessors and building department also moved to the police building at 1575 Massachusetts Avenue.

In 1970-1 the Town Office Building was remodeled and expanded according to the specifications of Perry, Dean and Stewart. Great care was taken to preserve and duplicate the appearance of the original section of the structure including red brick, white trimmings and a slate roof. The square footage of the building doubled and included additional space for town administrators, the comptroller, conference and committee rooms. The heating system, plumbing, wiring and other services were updated and an elevator and air conditioning were added. A. Bonfatti Co., Inc. of Norwood served as the general contractor. With the completion of the addition, the Assessors and Building Department returned to the Town Office Building. On October 15, 1971 the renovated and enlarged Town Office Building was open to business. It was dedicated on January 9, 1972.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913.
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Ostrow, David. Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS No. MA-1174, Town Office Building, 1625 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, Mass., August 16, 1981.
Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington: 1946.
Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, Inc., 1998: 23-4.

Supplement prepared by:
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